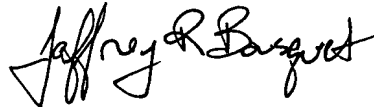


REMARKS

Claims 1–20, 22–36, 40–44, 46, 50, and 51 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 4, and 40 are amended and claims 21, 37–39, 45, and 47–49 are canceled. Prompt and favorable consideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



William P. Berridge
Registration No. 30,024

Jeffrey R. Bousquet
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WPB:JRB/hs

Date: October 19, 2006

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